The Long Island FISHERMAN

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JANU ★ Volume 14, Number 4 ★ *14th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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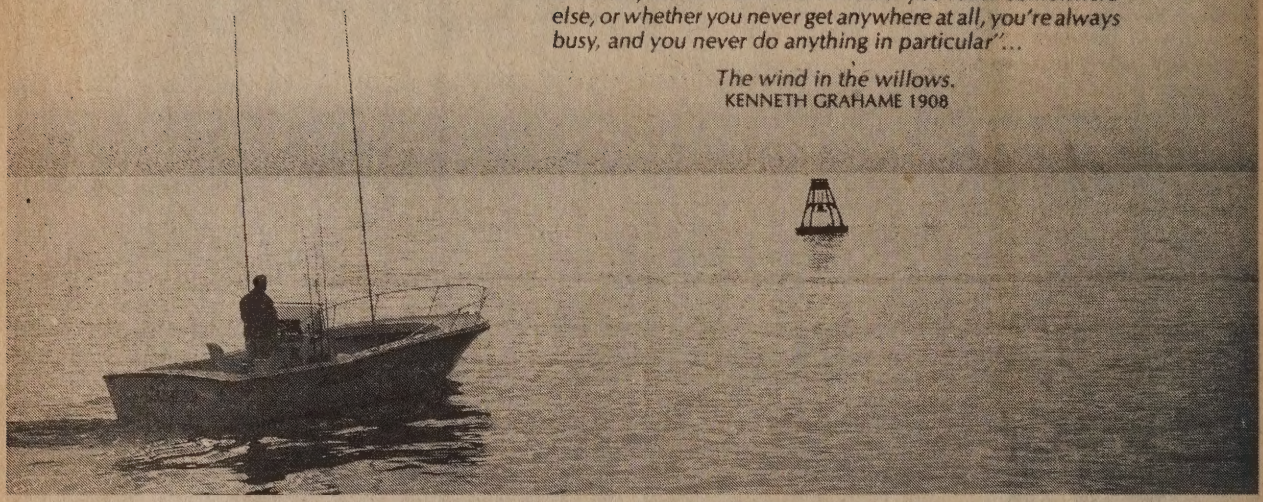
Sportfishing World Series

"Believe me, my young friends" said the Water Rat solemnly, "There is nothing...absolutely nothing...half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats,...Simply messing,...

Nothing seems really to matter,...That's the charm of it... whether you get away, or whether you don't, whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular"...

The wind in the willows.
KENNETH GRAHAME 1908



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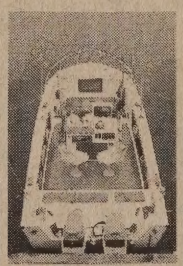
Mako builds a line of center console fishing boats that will stand up under the toughest fishing pressure. Wherever game fish are caught, Makos will be found. From Key West Bonefish flats to Northern Muskellunge rivers. From Bimini Marlin grounds to Montauk Striper rips. All Makos are BIA approved. They are self-bailing and have foam flotation. Mako builds only center console fishing boats and we're the world's largest builder. There is no compromising, there is a single purpose—and that's to continue to build the finest fishing boat possible for the serious anglers who demand only the finest. Mako...For the true water rat who's very serious about his fishing. Mako...You'll find the line, where the fish are.



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 14, NO. 4 JANUARY 25, 1979

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L.I. BOAT SHOW

About the Cover—

Completed rod holders mounted on John Dory and ready to fish. See Dr. William Muller's concluding article of three-part series on rod holders on page 19.

Richard Reina PUBLISHER

Scott Simons MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. Wm. A. Muller EDITOR

Al Ristori CONSERVATION EDITOR

Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER

Pete Barrett NEW JERSEY EDITOR

Tim Coleman NEW ENGLAND EDITOR

Rich Reina Jr. PRODUCTION MANAGER

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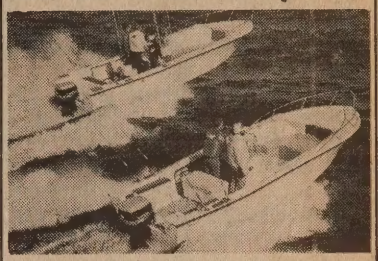

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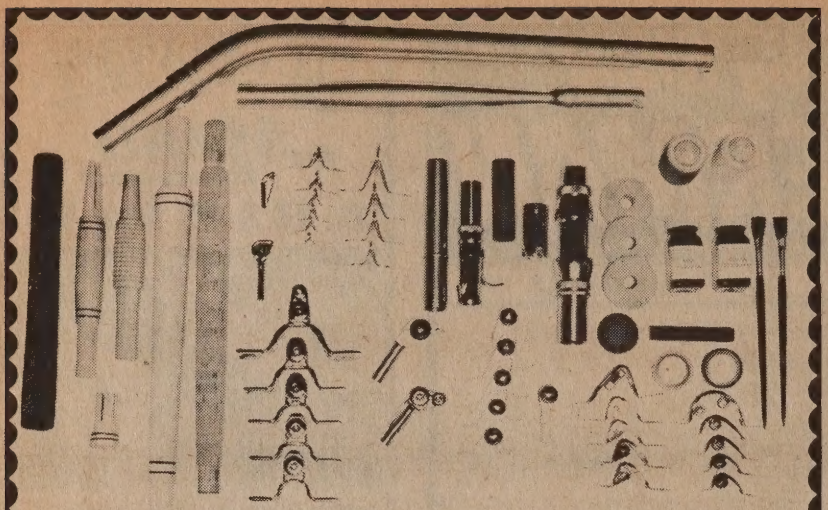

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Pass It On...

FILM SHOWINGS

Surfside 3 Tuna Club of Lindenhurst will sponsor one of many films to be shown over the winter months. For those who are interested, Feb. 1, 1979 is going to be the first film on Giant Tuna taken in the Canyon by a well-known South Shore fisherman who caught and landed one of many over 200 lbs., off his own boat.

Admission is free; coffee and cake served. All interested parties call Pete Sindone, 516-286-8198 or 286-9505, between 8-5.

BALDWIN ROD & GUN CLUB

The Baldwin Rod and Gun Club will hold its regular February meeting at the Baldwin American Legion Hall, South Grand Avenue at Church Street, between Merrick Road and Atlantic Avenue in Baldwin, N.Y., on **February 20, 1979**. At this meeting, we are pleased to have Dr. William A. Muller of **The Long Island Fisherman** who will present a film and talk on striped bass. Visitors are invited to attend this meeting, which will start **promptly** at 8PM.

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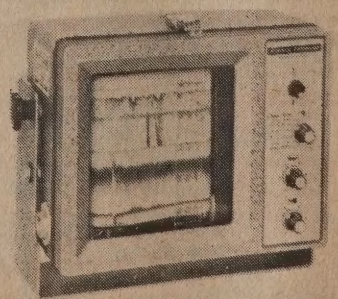

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For information contact Gerry Gutman, Al Carlson, or Jack Provenzano

SALTY FLYRODDERS FLY TYING CLINIC

"Salty" Flyrodders of N.Y., Inc., announce club officers elected for 1979 term: President - Don Avondolio, Vice Pres.; Vice Pres. - Dom DeSalvo, Record Sec.; Bill Bradshaw, Correspond Sec.; Lou Rossi - Treas.; Harry Lasker. Directors Joe Falke, Ted Rosenthaler, Dennis O'Brien.

President Don Avondolio wants to remind interested fly fishermen that the "Free" Club Clinic featuring fly tying, fly casting, and leader preparation instructions will be open to the public at meetings **February 5** and **March 5**. These meetings are held 8PM at Grace Lutheran Church, 31-20 21st Ave., Astoria, N.Y., near the Triboro Bridge.

BOATING

FLOTILLA 11-2 SAFE BOATING COURSE

A 12-lesson course in safe boating will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. at the South Shore H.S., 6565 Flatland Ave., Room 440, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Commander Goodhartz, Public Relations Officer from Flotilla 11-2.

FLOTILLA 11-7 FREE BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 11-7, USCG Auxiliary, Plum Beach, New York, is conducting a FREE Boating Skills and Seamanship Public Education class for fourteen Mondays beginning **February 26, 1979.** The course will be rendered at the Lecture Hall, Bldg. 272, Gateway Nat'l Park Unit at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York and run until May 28, 1979.

Classes will begin **promptly** at 8PM and be about two hours in length. All students who complete the course will receive an identification card attesting to their completion of the BS &S course and a beautiful graduation certificate. Presentation of this certificate to an insurance agent is worth a 10% reduction on your annual boat insurance premium from most insurance companies.

To reserve a seat, send a check or money order in the amount of $20 made payable to: **U.S.C.G. Aux-Flot. 11-7"** and send to the name and address appearing below. The course is offered **free** to anyone; the $20 fee is to cover the cost of materials received by those who wish to have them. Included among the many materials provided are: a beautifully prepared text book, a book of home-work questions, student folder for hand-out material, printed materials, chart for piloting problems and the tools of piloting—a set of parallel rules and dividers for chart work. Incidentally, a chart is also included in the price upon which they can learn and practice the art of piloting (3 weeks worth!!!).

For further information and registration information, please contact: R. Kanowitz, 2547 W. Second St., Brooklyn, NY 11223, 998-6902.

BKLYN. POWER SQUADRON BOAT HANDLING COURSE

Getting an early start on the new boating season, the Brooklyn Power Squadron will conduct registration for a free course in small boat handling on **Thursday, January 25** at 7PM at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., just a half-block from the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Skippers and would-be skippers, both men and women, over the age of 16 are invited to attend the 12-week course. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held at St. Francis on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., **starting on February 1.** The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of outboard and inboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and plotting courses, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat.

The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. Aids to navigation, such

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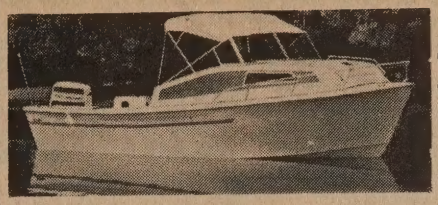

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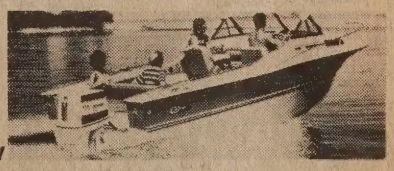

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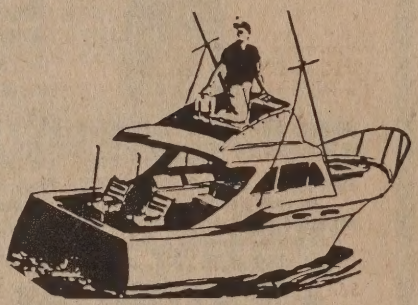
as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. And the basic rules of the road for safe operation also are taught to students.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes with no charge to teach those interested in boating the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 768-4714.

NEW NAUTICAL CHARTS

Twenty-one new editions of nautical charts for the East and Gulf Coast have been published by the Commerce Department's NOAA. Most include new demarcation lines between international rules waters and inland rules waters. Contact: National Ocean Survey, 439 W. York St., Norfolk, VA 23510; (804) 441-6616.



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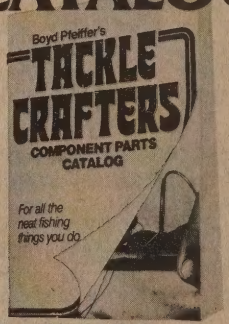
Miffed and Frustrated with my botched-up copy. **"Huckleberry" Grell, the bloodhound on your Nov. 30 cover with the STICK-UM on his nose.**

P.S.—Wait till you see me in my survival suit. I hope you guys don't muff that one. Grrrrr!

It looks like our plot to make Doc Grell a mortal has been sniffed out. Now, at least everyone will know who the real fisherman in the family is.

Sorry about the label. It is a constant thorn in our side since we are limited in our placement of it. In the future, we will be covering more of the "Fisherman" logo and less of the picture. Sincerely, **Fred Golofaro.**

COMPONENT PARTS CATALOG



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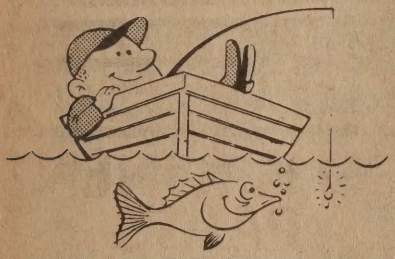
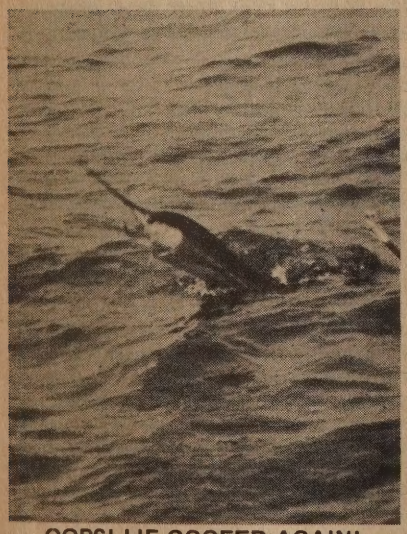
L.I.F. SUPPORTER

My name is Joe Mistretta. I am 13, and I read your Long Island Fisherman all the time, because every year I buy a subscription. I drew this picture just for you. I would love it if you can put it in your publication please. I would be very happy and so would my parents. Keep up the good work. Yours Truly, **J. Mistretta, Hauppauge, N.Y.**

Everyone here at The Fisherman enjoyed your drawing. Thanks for thinking of us, and good fishing to you in '79. **Fred Golofaro.**





OOPS! LIF GOOFED AGAIN!

In last week's issue of LIF, the caption for the cover photo forgot to mention the charter boat that the white marlin was caught on. The white marlin shown breaking water was being fought by Thierry Passarelli south of Block Island on Captain John Kudrick's charter boat "DAY BREAK" out of the Star Island Yacht Club in Montauk.

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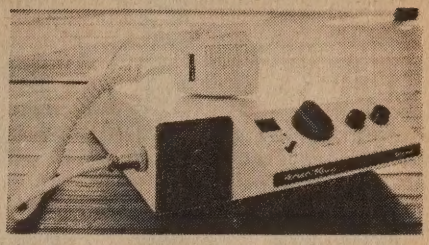

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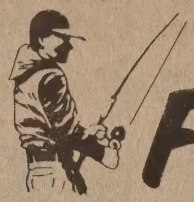

The Long Island
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BOAT BUYERS' GUIDE

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The Long Island Fisherman **is pleased to tell our subscribers that this spring they will have an opportunity to sell something via our popular classified advertisements FREE. Normally these ads cost a minimum of $7.50, but if you are a regular subscriber to L.I.F. you can advertise your boat, used engine, old fishing tackle, marine electronics, etc., that you want to sell at no charge! Just write out the copy for your ad in the blank below and mail it to us. If you have a photo of your boat, send it along and we will include it in the ad if space permits. This is a one shot deal, so make sure that you get your copy in before the February 15th deadline. All the ads received will appear in one issue sometime early this spring.**

INSTRUCTIONS:

On the lines below PRINT CLEARLY the copy for your ad. Attach your subscription mailing label to the box at right, then mail it along with your photo (if you have one) to:

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Staple or tape the mailing label from one of your issues in this box, or just write down the subscribers number off the label.
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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

IS THE CHESAPEAKE DEAD

DIAGNOSIS? The Chesapeake Bay may be two hundred and fifty miles away, but in many ways it is a body of water that is more important to us than the Great South Bay. Why? There are many reasons. For one thing, the Chesapeake Bay complex is a rich, varied, and complicated body of water whose seasonal productivity is astounding. The shore line of the Bay complex looks more like a jigsaw puzzle than a beach, and rivers, creeks, and marshes abound—that's the kind of terrain that productive estuaries are made of! Thus, the shallow, rich waters may produce the bulk of the nutrients that nurture the coastal Atlantic Ocean. In addition, the Bay abounds with shellfish such as blueclaw crabs, oysters, and clams. It is thought that an excess crab population down south enhances our blueclaw fishery. The Chesapeake has, for centuries, been considered the great fish nursery of the Atlantic Coast—and perhaps it is. We like to think that recent evidence supports the notion that Long Island estuaries are important, too! Nonetheless, no one can argue that the Chesapeake's contribution to the striped bass fishery is important or that the successful spawning of bunker in that Bay complex is vital to the health of that fishery up and down the coast. Who knows what other interdependencies exist between the Chesapeake and other estuaries from Maine to Florida. Clearly, the Chesapeake is an important estuary and, as such, the coastal Atlantic Ocean requires it to be in good health.

DIFFERENT VIEWS! According to Conservation News, a publication of the National Wildlife Federation, the health of the Chesapeake gets mixed reviews. Dr. Eugene Cronin, Director of the Chesapeake Research Consortium evaluated the Bay's state of health as not bad. That analysis, of course, implies that it also is not good. He noted that although the basic biological and ecological pathways and mechanisms were still operating, there remain areas of "deep concern." The three areas he cited are recognizable to anyone interested in marine conservation as fairly universal concerns. He pointed out that toxic chemicals continue to be dumped into the Bay; that oyster production over the last decade seems to be slipping for no obvious reason, and that the production of marine vegetation has declined about fifty percent since 1971. We do not wish to minimize the importance of Dr. Cronin's observations, but it is important to point out that the input of sewage and toxic chemicals into an estuary, along with poor management of the fin and shellfish resources of the estuary, usually produce the very same symptoms: decreased production, unexplained difficulty for animals to reproduce, and a drastic kill-off of aquatic vegetation. Road salt (used to melt snow in winter) and herbicides continue to be the main culprits. There is no mystery to this. Scatter some road salt on your lawn and see what happens; and the same weed killer that destroys your dandelions so efficiently, runs off to the sea when it rains to kill marine algae.

MOST VALUABLE ESTUARY! Dr. Cronin describes the Bay as the world's most valuable estuary. It was formed about eleven thousand years ago by a glacial sheet that first advanced southward and ultimately retreated. When the great ice sheets retreated, sea level rose and drowned the Susquehanna River delta that existed at the time. Today, the Bay has about 7,300 miles of shore line and about five percent of this is wetlands. The food-rich wetlands are traditionally the spawning grounds for many fish, but the kill-off of marine vegetation usually means that the eggs fall into silt rather than rest on plant life. As a result, many millions of eggs become diseased and never hatch.

SUBURBS! There has been a tremendous growth of suburbs in Maryland and Virginia during the last decade. The construction of roads, homes, and industry has meant more sewage, toxic chemicals, and sedimentation. Sedimentation is a serious problem because many scientists believe that the sediment is a vehicle for the transport of pesticides, bacteria, toxic chemicals, and is itself often a cause of discoloration of the water. Writer George Reiger also spoke at the gathering. Reiger said he noted "...the tortured steps of mismatched partners in a ludicrous dance, with State and Federal representatives on one side of the ballroom and (my) local board of supervisors on the other. ... Increasingly, this grotesque ballet has become a dance of death for the Chesapeake." Of course, Mr. Reiger was referring to shortsighted planning of local and Federal agencies. Business and real estate interests encourage and are pleased by growth; growth generates taxes, which pleases government—and during all the growth many laws are written into the books to protect wetlands and the environment in general.

IT'S A CATCH-22! Reiger suggests that generations from now. "... sons and grandsons will be trying to salvage what little remains of the good life in the local area ... increasing numbers of urban-based families will have to wander farther afield for the spiritual rejuvenation that once was theirs in their own backyards." Does that sound familiar? It sounds to me like the history of Long Island in the last thirty years. Perhaps we should realize that with super highways, super shopping centers and super housing tracts, come super problems: the destruction of your backyard playground and the decline in the quality of the nearby marine environment. The proposed bridge across Long Island Sound is a good example of this. Officials promise more jobs, better wages, and lower taxes. Depression-ravaged Long Islanders look to these promises as a way of renewing their lives. Who can blame us? Things have been very tough for a long time now; one need only check the list of foreclosures to know that a lot of people are out of work and that our economy is in bad shape. But will we really benefit from a bridge? Likely not. Sure, some folks will benefit, but they are more likely to be the big corporate rich guys—not the average man in the street like you and I. The truckers will be helped because they'll save the big trip through or around New York City. Will we gain lower prices on trucked goods? I doubt it! And what of the fishing? Let's not forget the fishing. After all, fishing is what this magazine is all about. We have seen more highways, more cars, more homes, more business, more people, more road salt, more fertilizer, more weed killers, more gasoline spilled in bays and harbors and—declining bait fish, fewer bass, blues, weaks, fluke, flounder, etc. Is this really only a coincidence?

TWENTY YEARS AGO. Few people, including scientists, realized twenty years ago how interdependent are the various marine habitats. Twenty years ago, we were only beginning to understand how productive and important salt marshes (marine wetlands) are to the productivity of the coastal ocean. Twenty years ago, there was no support for the 200-Mile Limit idea—but today there is. The people are environment conscious, and fishermen are very aware of the marine environment in their backyards. Twenty years ago we all believed that progress—more of everything—was the key to future happiness. Today, we look back and

(Continued on page 25.)

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

BAIT UP FOR BETTER FISHING

The correct baiting of a fishhook is so important that just about every experienced fisherman has his own tried and proven methods; therefore, I'm not about to suggest they change these methods to suit mine. But if you are having difficulties hooking your fish, or finding problems getting fish to bite when others around you are plopping fish in their buckets, there may be two reasons for this. It is quite possible the way you bait-up, coupled with misunderstanding concerning the bait you use, is what's causing your trouble. The remedy is simple. If you put bait on the hook in the most natural-like manner—that is, in the most appealing way—you will have less difficulty getting action. It is only when bait is used or placed on the hook with no thought given to the fish and its feeding habits that results are apt to be poor. If you doubt this, the next time you see one fellow catching fish to the exclusion of others in your fishing area, watch him when he removes a fish and renews his bait. If he isn't the fussiest guy you've ever seen bait-wise, I'll rack my rods right now and never look upon saltwater again. Some of these excellent fishermen have actually made a fetish of proper bait presentation. Is it any wonder they are so successful?

This applies not only to bait fishermen. Check the nearest plug or jig fisherman you know. He'll positively amaze you with his thoughts on lure presentation. All these fellows, whether they be lure or bait fishermen, have done their homework. If you wish to be successful at the fishing game—go and do likewise.

Space limitations at this time do not permit going into the depths of bait presentation—such as during early and late seasons, the effects of water temperatures, etc. So, for now, we'll hit the high-spots necessary for success with our most popular bottom feeders, and we'll take each fish one by one. If you are an experienced fisherman, I'm almost certain you've already read what is to follow, but please bear with me; there are many of us just starting out in the fishing game who, I hope, will find these hints useful.

Flounder: The most popular of all our bottom feeders. Just about every fisherman loves flounder fishing. Some of these fellows find flounder extremely easy to catch, and some find them hard to come by. Except in isolated instances, long gone are days of assured catches by the score. Today's flounder fisherman must take advantage of every little trick that will aid in putting his flatties in the bucket.

Most flounder fishermen use worm bait. While this may not always be the best under every condition, worms can be depended upon to entice flounder to the hook most times. I find most inexperienced fishermen who use worms have a habit of placing too small a piece on the hook.

And with that, let me say this: if you want small flounder, use small pieces of bait. It's as simple as that. Never hesitate to use a piece of worm as much as an inch-and-a-half in length. Never mind how large this appears. Don't let that small mouth fool you. A decent-sized flounder can easily handle bait this size. When baiting up, always make sure to bring your hook out at least a quarter-inch from the end. Try always to have worm bait lie straight out on bottom. Baiting this way will help assure this. Small, curled, bunched bait will bring you few large flounder.

And while we're on this subject: when using bloodworm don't concern yourself if they aren't fresh. As long as bloodworms do not have an odor, they will often catch more flounder in this condition than when fresh off the mud flats. I found this out years ago and now when I buy bloodworms, I try always to get those soft, tired ones. Fresh bloodworms are often tough, and flounder would rather feed on soft bait if they have the choice. Therefore, it is up to you to give them this choice whenever possible. This is why mussels are such great flounder producers. Incidentally, this doesn't seem to work as well with sandworm—these should be as fresh as possible.

Fluke: High on the summertime fisherman's list, fluke can be—but seldom are—as finicky as flounder. About the only reason you are unsuccessful for fluke—if everything else is according to prescribed fishing methods—is simply because there are none in your fishing area.

There have been times when, due to water clarity, I've been able to watch fluke approach my bait. They then do one of two things: they immediately pounce upon it, or they quickly back off and bed down a short distance away and wait for something more to their liking. I've seen this happen so often over the years that I am repeating: the only reason you don't catch fluke is because there are none in your fishing area.

Therefore, when fluke fishing (as with flounder fishing), it is important that you carry more than one

Sunrise—and baiting the hook properly has already put fish in the bucket.

The "freak" fluke which was so difficult to catch.

bait. I'll give you an example of what I mean.

Last summer I was sitting in a skiff tied to one of the spilings of the commercial fishing fleet wharf near Shinnecock Inlet, waiting for the tide-rush to subside so I could begin a decent drift for fluke. This area had been enjoying a good run of fish and I wanted to take advantage of it. I busied myself between catching a few bergalls for possible bait and watching the skiff-fleet hopelessly drifting by and wasting time in the fast current.

The water under me was about four feet deep and very clear. I could watch the bergalls, spearing, killies, and sand eels cavorting back and forth. They seemed to have no fear of a possible fluke attack and this should have tipped me off. Just before the tide slacked enough to allow some decent drifting, I dunked a strip of sea robin overboard and jigged it up and down to watch the bait's action.

From out of nowhere came a good-sized fluke that showed intense interest. But that's all it was—interest. It backed off and settled down about three feet away with its head facing the deepest water. I immediately filleted a bergall and tried that. Once again—interest, but no taker. I then tried sand eel and spearing. No interest at all. A two-inch live bergall didn't even cause the fluke to bat a fin. It was time to give the fish a rest in order not to arouse its suspicions that a dire plot was being hatched against it.

Only another fisherman who understands what it means to watch a good-sized fish refuse bait knows how I felt. What to do? How about a combination bait? Maybe. I waited a good ten minutes and then took one of the smaller live bergalls and placed it and a strip of light-shaded sea robin on the hook. Bang! That fluke came over with a rush, and without a bit of hesitation engulfed the whole bait in one fell swoop.

I know it was the same fluke because it was one of those freaks that turn up on occasion. It was completely black on the bottom except for the head, which was the usual white. I had noticed this abnormality whenever that exasperating fluke approach the bait and glided aside in a peculiar rising glide which enabled me to see the underside. (See photo.)

Therefore, I can tell you that if you wish to become proficient at the art of fluke fishing, be prepared at all times to do a bit of bait experimenting. When you know fluke are being caught in your fishing area, don't take no for an answer. They are there; it is up to you to use the old noodle.

Cod: Often finicky, the cod is highly prized. It would take a dozen pages to cover all the tricks fishermen use to entice Mr. Cod to the baited hook, and then it is quite possible we'd only be skimming the surface.

Baits range from the usual skimmer, through fresh herring and mackerel chunks, to such exotics as chicken heads. The only thing I can tell you at this time is to never overload your hook. Don't—and I repeat don't—be tempted to use big baits just because the cod has a bucket mouth. It isn't so much that cod won't take these (I sometimes have my doubts about this), but rather that large baits, being heavy, hang down and often entangle about the main line. Cod are shy and will rarely be tempted to approach such a difficult-to-get-at bait.

Should you be using skimmer, it is better to use a third of a large one, or half a medium-sized one. If whole skimmer are small, you can use this as is, but make sure to nick a few times to get those tantalizing juices into the current.

As with most baits for bottom fish, make certain the business end of the hook is exposed—especially when using leather-like baits such as conch. You've got to drive that hook into the cod's tough jaw and anything you do to help is to your advantage.

Blackfish: A tricky customer to hook. Whether you use some form of crab bait (preferred) or soft bait such as worm or skimmer, it is important to have that hook and barb exposed.

Porgy: About the best baits for these fish are skimmer and sandworm. Again, never hesitate to use decent-sized pieces. That all-important point must be exposed near the end for quick hooking of the rapid-fire porgy. When using skimmer, make sure some of the soft belly remains with each slice. This is what the porgy relishes.

Sea Bass: This is one fish where it isn't so necessary to expose the hook—unless you are using live killies for big humpbacks. Because the sea bass' mouth is large and it is a gluttonous feeder, it will often hook itself if given a chance. Squid is an excellent bait for sea bass, and I sometimes think it will outfish skimmer. Cut into three-inch strips, a half-inch wide, it is one bait that is always accepted. It is best to loop the hook through each slice two or three times and allow at least a half-inch to trail in the current.

Baiting your hooks with the methods just stated will certainly put more fish in that bucket. Fortunately, bottom fishing is just about the easiest fishing there is, but only if you know each step of the way. Don't forget, those fish aren't going to jump on your hook unless you can prove to them that doing so is to their advantage—not yours.

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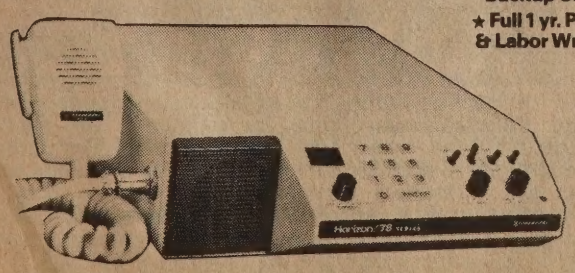

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It is the season of the winter miseries. The sought-after reprieve when one languishes in a warm bed instead of greeting the sun on some uncomfortable waterfront has lost its appeal. The cheerful gatherings of friends and relations for the Holidays has also passed, leaving the surfcaster with several long, cold months to prepare and plan in anticipation of spring. In the course of cleaning and refurbishing one's equipment, recollections of each item's success or failure over the past year are brought to mind. If last year was successful, then these recollections invoke stirring memories of smashing strikes, thrilling give and take battles, and a keen sense of satisfaction as the fish is brought to the beach. If your efforts were not successful, then doubts about the reliability of particular items might enter your mind; but before one questions the fish-catching capabilities of inanimate objects, one should review his own technique and manner of fishing various beaches. By taking the time now, when the forced inactivity of winter stretches dreary days seemingly without end, a more productive approach may be formulated for the coming season.

Surf Side

with John Fritz

WINTER DIVERSIONS

There are two basic methods from which a person can choose. First, one can fish an area convenient to his home and wait for the fish to come to him. The second is to chase the fish, and in so doing, search out new areas. The majority of surfcasters probably use a combination of these two methods, with the difference being in the emphasis one places on each method.

The easiest and least costly method would be to stay in one suitable general area and learn it well. Learn which tides and winds provide the conditions which most often yield fish. Be aware of the approximate date of arrival of the sought-after species. Determine which methods of fishing—artificials or bait—are most productive at which time of the year. Possibly light tackle will yield results where the heavier lines and larger plugs fail to raise a fish. Perhaps a change in the choice of bait will make a difference?

In order to illustrate this last statement, I'll relate an experience and deduction I witnessed this past autumn. I regret that I did not find the time to see if my conclusions would prove fruitful.

Teen-sized bluefish were plying the waters of a certain North Shore beach. On some days, brisk action was to be had; while on other days, it was at best a slow pick. The winds and tides that were considered to be the most productive did not prove to be so. There was no pattern, except possibly a flurry of action around dawn of each day.

We knew the fish were in the area, as well as generous supplies of bait fish, for we were constantly snagging sand eels on slowly retrieved tin. In desperation some anglers switched from artificials to bait in hopes of enticing a rise from these frustrating fish. The bait chosen was the most widely accepted bait on Long Island for bluefish: bunker chunks. The results were anything but gratifying—a fish here, a couple fish there. An angler relentlessly plying the waters with a plug could do as well.

The thought occurred to me one fishless morning that the use of bunker when the blues were obviously feeding on sand eels is a mistake. Why not fish bottom using sand eels the way our brethren at the Cape fish for cow bass? Before I could put this idea into practice, my activities were diverted to other areas, but the thought still intrigues me. If the same trying circumstances repeat next year, I hope to react more quickly to a given set of conditions.

It seems that the vast hordes of striped bass that inhabited our waters in the past have either changed their life style or dwindled to a point where it is more difficult to achieve success. It may be necessary to change your attitudes and priorities. If you are a die-hard plug caster, it might behoove you to attempt fishing bottom, at least during the slower months of the season. If you are a dedicated striper fisherman, perhaps weakfish could fill the void during those long, fishless nights.

Do you own a buggy? Perhaps you are too attached to your vehicle and only fish beach areas where you can use your four-wheel drive. Remember the days you pounded the sand, plugging as you went, thoroughly working the waters as you passed instead of swiftly driving by to reach the imagined hotspot? Take this thought one step further. Park your vehicle in the lot with the less fortunate of our clan and join them in fishing areas you haven't seen since you scraped enough money together to purchase your buggy.

The classic example of a surfcaster is the guy bracing himself against the swirling water, while straining to cast an enormous plug with a giant rod to some point beyond the horizon. Nowadays, more and more knowledgeable surfmen are learning to slink around the swamps and marshes under the cover of darkness in order to achieve some results. The classic example is fine—I'm all for it, but if it fails to produce, it is just an exercise in futility. In all probability the most consistently productive regions are to be found inside the inlets and along the channels and coves of the back bays. This is true, not only through the summer doldrums, but for a good part of the entire fishing season.

Throughout the years, certain lures have earned a deserved reputation as fish catchers. These lures are an integral part of every surfman's plug bag. What about the less popular lures that are, on occasion, the only item the fish will touch, or the new lures which glut the shelves of the tackle stores more frequently each year?

The Mirro-Lure, which I never carried before a certain night at Shagwong and have since relegated to the depths of my fish box, was the only lure the weakfish would take at that time. There is, of course, a limit to the amount of lures one can carry on the beach, but if the old standbys are failing to produce, a change could bring results. I'm not talking about a simple change, such as switching from a blue-backed Rebel to a black-backed Red-Fin—instead of relying on various versions of swimming plugs, try some completely different lure types. Bucktails and the many variations of rubber eels and worms often simulate the natural bait better than some of those plastic or wood monstrosities that catch fish under normal conditions.

Okay, you have been working your stretch of beach under varied tides, winds and times, with a variety of lures and have achieved little for your efforts. We have a few more tricks to attempt before moving on. The variations are endless and are only limited by your imagination and fishing knowledge. I'll give a few instances that I've had experience with, but don't be timid about trying an idea of your own. You could come up with a winner and start your own business.

One of the hot lures along the Westhampton beachfront this past fall was the addition of a surgical tube-covered hook (such as found on the umbrella rigs) to the Hopkins Lures. The variety of lengths and colors on different metal lures is unlimited. On another occasion, teen-sized blues did not like any bucktail adorning the hook on the Hopkins. It was a strange sight to see surfcasters pulling the hair off the hook in frustration. In the opposite vein, the replacement of the rear treble on your darters with a bucktailed, single hook will sometimes make the difference. Eel skin plugs have been used for many years, but how many anglers nowadays will take the time to rig them and put up with the trouble of keeping them?

In conjunction with altering your lures, the variations which can be made in your retrieve are just as numerous. One I've seen used successfully is to slowly,

ever so slowly, drag a tin along a sandy bottom with no attempt to give the lure any action. Try drawing a popping plug slowly along the surface to give it a continuous long splash, broken intermittently with a brief pause. When using a bottle plug, after the lip has dug in, pump the rod as you would when working a popper.

The point to be learned from this is that if you decide to confine your activities to specific locations, be ready to drastically alter your methods if you feel the fish are present, but you are not getting any results.

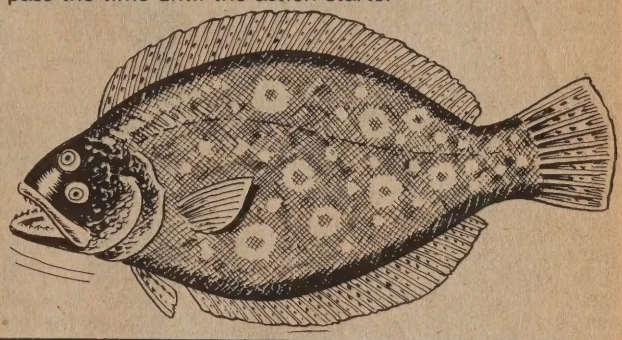
Let us say you have given your area your best and have still come up empty-handed. You can either continue fishing this area and wait for the fish to come to you, or you get in your car and chase the fish. This could mean a simple trip across Island from the South Shore to the North Shore, or an Island-wide excursion to such places as Montauk or the North Fork. For most of my acquaintances, the trip east is a matter of course, but on many occasions, good fishing can be had by traveling west. Breezy Point, Jamaica Bay, and Staten Island had good fishing last fall when most of the eastern beaches witnessed a slow pick.

Unless you have access to an extensive grapevine, late word of the fishing prospects of far off places is hard to come by. The Long Island Fisherman and the fishing columns of the local newspapers will give you the prospects, but they are days late at best. Even if you do miss the hot action written about, there are usually a few stragglers left to provide action. Also, any trip to a new area adds to your knowledge until you can predict at what date a given species is due to arrive.

There are times when the effort you put in on the local beaches does not seem to be rewarding. This is especially true when you hear of the tremendous catches being made out of state in such places as Cape Hatteras, Cape Cod, Nantucket or in Rhode Island. To undertake such a trip alone is unappealing to most, but one which is not uncommon. Naturally, having a partner is preferable, but help can be gleaned from several sources. Probably the best information can be gotten from fishing acquaintances recently returned from the area in question. Tackle stores often give reliable reports for they are looking for your return business. Most surfcasters when encountered on the beach, if approached in a likeable manner, are willing to help a newcomer in his quest.

If an extensive trip is planned, write to the local Chamber of Commerce for their literature. Study maps and charts you can obtain of the area in question and digest all fishing articles relative to your destination. After doing this, talk to any associates who have been there. By reading about the area beforehand, you will have some knowledge of the places you will be told about.

The plans you make now for the coming season may not be followed, for once the fishing actually starts we are influenced by many things. Some of these are beneficial and some are detrimental, but by planning at this time of year you will accomplish two objectives: a more concise plan of action can be formulated, thereby eliminating wasted effort during unproductive times with unproductive methods. Last, but not least, it will help pass the time until the action starts.



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Fishing For Bones

by Capt. John DeMaio

Now with a title like that one would expect to find Count Dracula working a poppin' plug across a graveyard. Wrong bones! "Bones" is the slang abbreviation used for bonitos in the Bay area. They are by no means as dead as a fossil. Hell no! These fish are miniature tuna types that perform admirably on light gear.

The past two seasons have seen large amounts of bonitos in our waters—far more than I can remember ever seeing before. My first recorded "bone" was August 1: one only. By September, I was up to eight. These catches were incidentals, not the main bill of fare. Best bone fishing comes in late September on into October. Depending on how fast the water chills. My last bone catch was October 25; other boats had more even later.

All through the summer months, the bones were taken on diamond jigs. They hit just about every jig made. Contrary to what I would have thought, the bigger jigs would often outfish the smaller ones. When I would expect to nail a bone on a three ounce Ava-27, the Ava-67 would work better. Even my De-May-O jig worked well when the bones were on sand eels.

The method of using the jig was more important than the lure. Instead of allowing the jig to sink to the bottom, as in the recommended style for most diamond jigging, a cast off to the side and a fast retrieve across the top would be best. The lure should be kept below the surface; a four-to-one retrieve is ideal for this method. You must consider that the heavier the jig, the faster the retrieve. The lighter, the slower.

Keith Berkelhumer holds up one of the six bonito he and his father landed on light spinning gear aboard the charter boat, "Vivienne."

Tackle markets are loaded with jig-type lures (shiny metal lures). Perhaps someone reading this has a lure that has given them better results than a diamond jig. Anything from a Krocodile lure to a Tri-Fin Sand Eel jig would have great potential.

Even though bones have a good set of teeth, they are spaced and present little, if any, problems with tackle loss—very unlike bluefish. So, if you desire, any expensive plug could be used without the need of wire leaders or the fear of losing $3.50 on the first cast.

Small plugs are required to be used only on light tackle outfits. In the case of bonito, lighter lines will produce more bites. This is a basic for all fish, but even more so with bone. This is especially true for their cousins, the false albacore.

False albacore must have the best eyesight of any fish swimming because it is extremely difficult to get them to take an artificial lure. I understand the most productive manner for catching albacore is with a 2/0 hook, ten pound test, and fresh bait. If you don't have fresh bait, you are stuck with using a lure. To date, I have found the best to be a small popper. Those little silver Creek Chubs, about three inches long. Still, this will not work too well considering the number of fish you will see on top. It is possible to spend hours casting a lure at albies you can see on top and never get a hit. My advice is to fish where there is a strong flow of water with some turbulence. I believe this will inhibit their vision, resulting in a strike. At least with the popper, you will see swirls behind your lure providing you with some excitement.

Light line is necessary for acquiring the correct action for a light popping plug. Once you have the action, the bonitos will hit. Their sight is not as keen as the albacore. On one afternoon's trip, my party took about eight or ten bonitos in eight feet of very clear water. There was no evidence that the fish were there (as usual with bones), but they most definitely were. We were able to see fish come at the lure from as far off as twelve feet. With the ability to watch the fish, you could tell how they went for the lure. One bone took a popper as it lay dead in the water.

To catch bones, you usually will have to see them first. They school up and draw birds overhead when they are feeding. Albacore and bonito mix: I'm still not sure how to tell the two apart. I know that albies feed in a circular swirl pattern; the back of the fish can be seen on the surface. It will show as a dark color and a fin will become visible as the fish rolls. Both species will come clear out of the water. Bonito will come out upright, then slowly bank and land splashing sideways into the water.

Albies feed almost entirely on striped anchovies (a spearing-like bait that gives off a red hue when in a tight school). Although bones are

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partial to the same bait, they enjoy a wider variety of bait fish. This opens the door to a variety of lures.

Once again, no lie, I think the bucktail will work as good as any. Having had the opportunity to experiment, I have seen the bucktail prove its worth. Unlike the bass fishing, I would advise a fast retrieve; maybe a jigging motion also. Don't forget the pork rind—try red. Cast to where you see the fish. You will positively catch better when you cast into the heaviest concentration. All anglers on board can hook up at once. Yes, you can have fast fishing with bones.

After casting, allow the lure to settle a couple of feet before beginning a fast retrieve. I put the accent on "fast," because I have yet to find a slow-moving lure to work on bones. Even umbrellas worked best when they were trolled rapidly and high.

Try to use a bucktail with a small hook; use any lure with a small hook. At Montauk this season most of the bonitos were big. A 3/0 hook proved large enough.

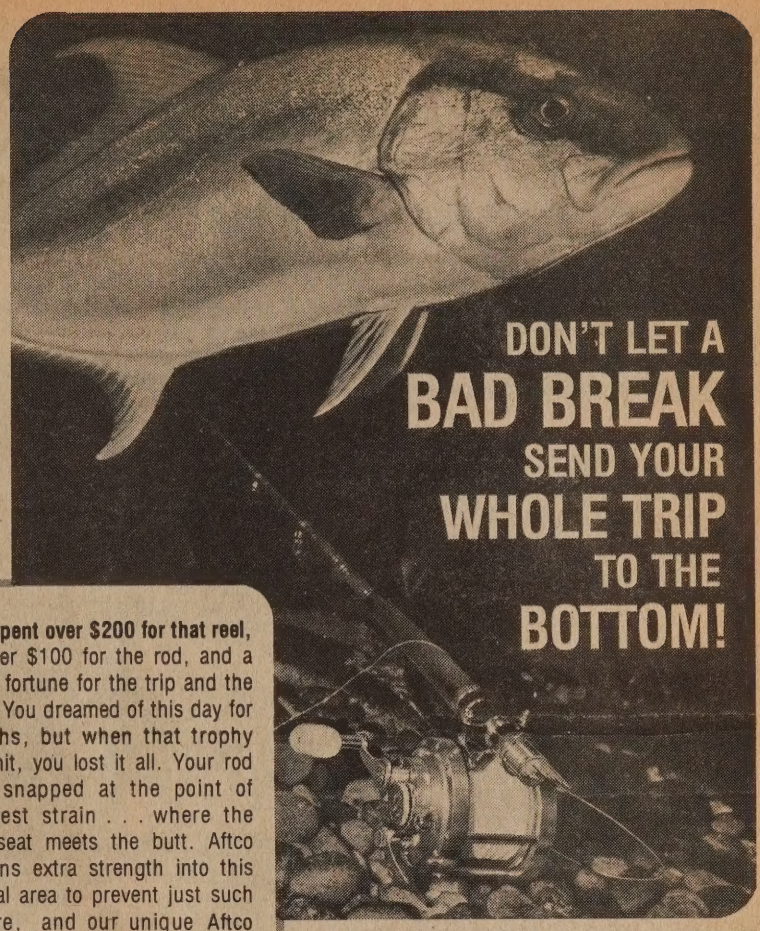
Talk about large! Several bonito taken on light line aboard my boat were record fish. No one told me until the end of the season that eight or ten pound test line would easily give you a record bone out east this season. Not only myself, but many other boats and anglers had, and blew the opportunity, to have their names in the record books.

Bonito are scrappy devils that will run off in one direction, then turn and come at you like a rocket. They don't give up—right to the boat. To my recollection, I have never seen a hooked bone come out of the water. So what! You can't have everything—even Sam stopped selling two pair of pants suits.

Are they good to eat? You betcha! The flesh is thick and meat-like, with a tuna quality. They can be prepared in a number of ways; in fish cakes, they are delicious.

The best way to clean a bonito is to fillet it. You will find a bone running the length of the fillet; remove it. Also, after filleting, remove the skin. Under the skin is a substantial layer of blood-red flesh. Remove that also. Make sure to slit the throat of any bonito you plan to eat immediately after landing it. This allows a large amount of blood to drain.

Hopefully next year the bones will return in force once again. More than once they saved a day's fishing for me. With a serious lack of bass and spotty weakfish, the bones offer an angler a handful of sport. This coming season a catch of bonito is not going to be a mistake. The fish are worthy of positive pursuit and make an excellent departure from bluefish. Good Luck.



You spent over $200 for that reel, another $100 for the rod, and a small fortune for the trip and the boat. You dreamed of this day for months, but when that trophy fish hit, you lost it all. Your rod butt snapped at the point of greatest strain . . . where the reel seat meets the butt. Aftco designs extra strength into this crucial area to prevent just such failure, and our unique Aftco "Swaging" process eliminates weak spots, sheds non-functional weight and creates the lightest, strongest trolling butts ever made! Formed from the finest marine aluminum and deeply anodized, they are virtually impervious to saltwater, corrosion and aging, and promise you years of hard, constant service!

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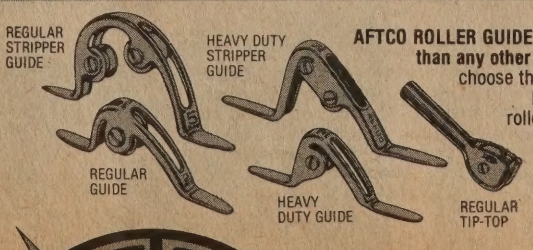

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ROD BUILDING SPECIAL

Custom Rod Crafting

Part Three—THE WRAPS

by Mike Trailes

There have been many fine articles in The Fisherman on how to build a rod wrapping jig, so we won't belabor the topic. Whatever your preference, be it a simple set of V-grooved wood blocks or a sophisticated, motorized rig, you will need something to support the blank while you are wrapping it.

The key to a well-wrapped rod is thread tension. Many rod builders will run their thread through a book to create tension—but this has a number of drawbacks, especially for the beginner. It does not provide uniform tension, particularly while beginning or ending the wrap, and one hand must be used to guide the thread. We would suggest a simple, inexpensive tension device such as that in Photo #1. It provides constant, uniform tension and also frees both hands for more important things. Components for this particular device can be bought at any hardware store and includes a two inch corner brace, 1/4 by 4'' bolt with nut and lock washers, two wing nuts, spring and washers (metal and/or Teflon). You should adapt it to slide back and forth along your jig or bench to position the thread properly.

While we're on the subject of tension: how much do you use? ''Firm'' is the best way to describe proper tension. Too much will press the guide foot into the Fiberglas blank and crush it. Too little tension will not hold the guide properly in place and you will also have problems keeping the whip finished ends of the wraps in place. You should be able to slide the guide around slightly after it is wrapped without bending the guide feet. As you wrap your guides, line them up as close as possible, then ''fine tune'' the alignment when you are finished wrapping by sliding and adjusting each guide slightly.

We are amazed at the number of rod builders who have not yet discovered NCP thread. As its name indicates, No Color Preserver thread requires no preserver before finish is applied. This alone is a great time saver. However, we have found that color preserver has a tendency to yellow the new epoxy finishes very quickly, so by eliminating the color preserver your epoxy finish should stay clear a lot longer. NCP thread, while not as bright or shiny as regular thread, has stable colors

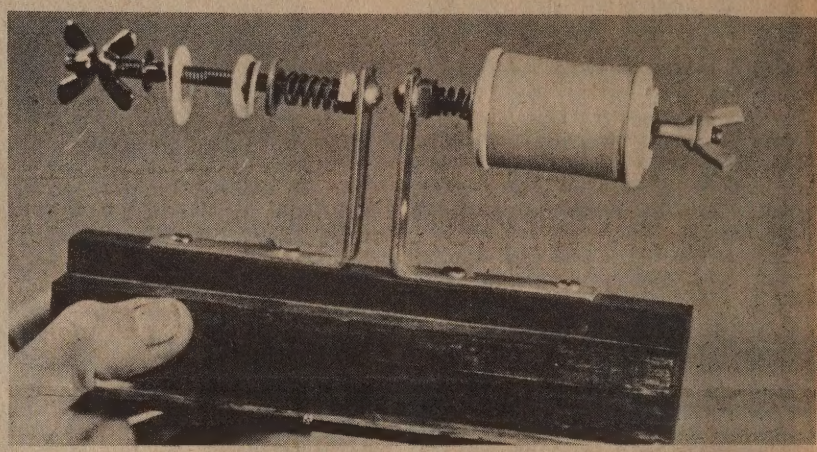


Photo One

Photo Two

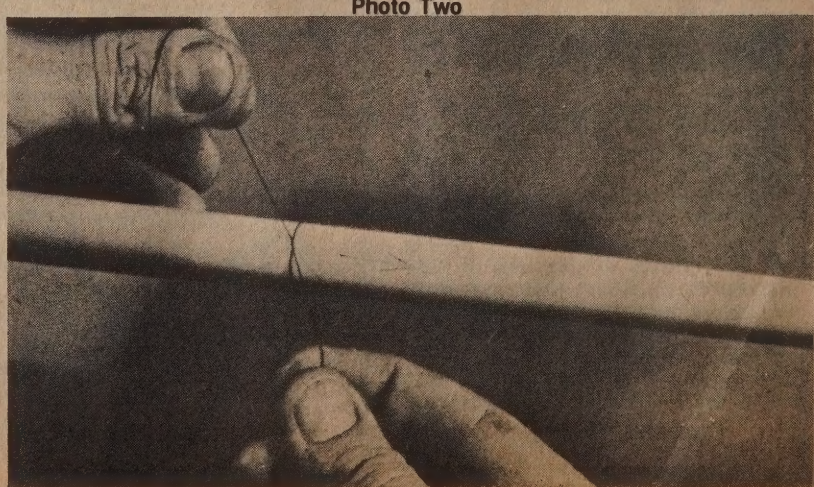


Photo Three

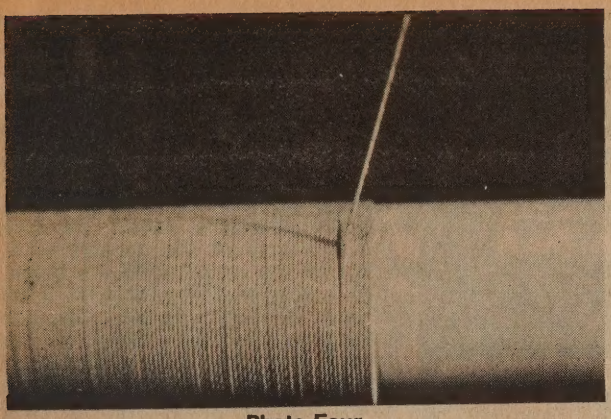
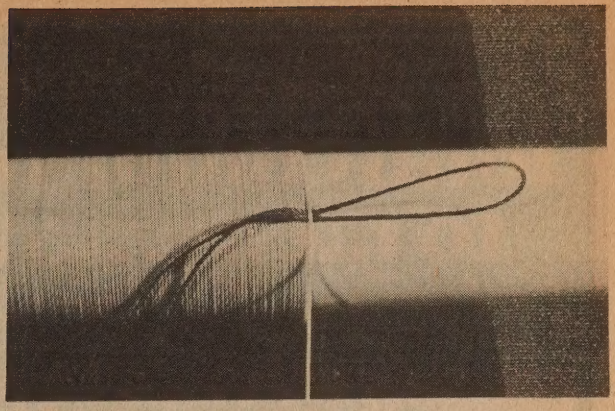


Photo Four



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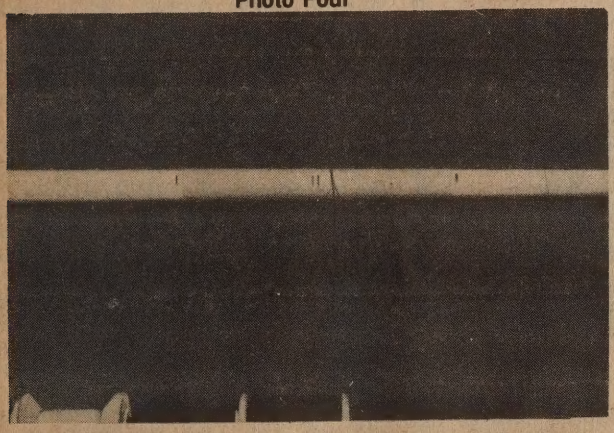

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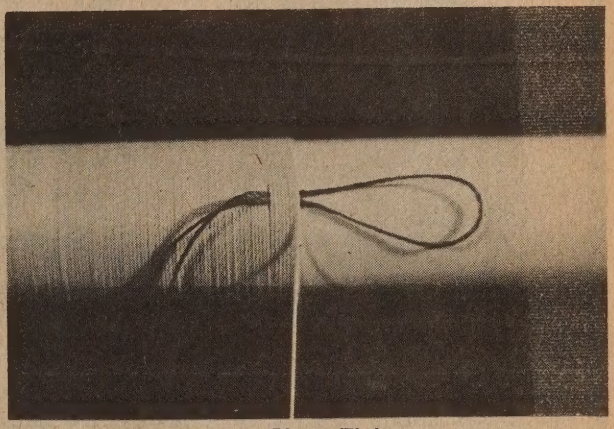

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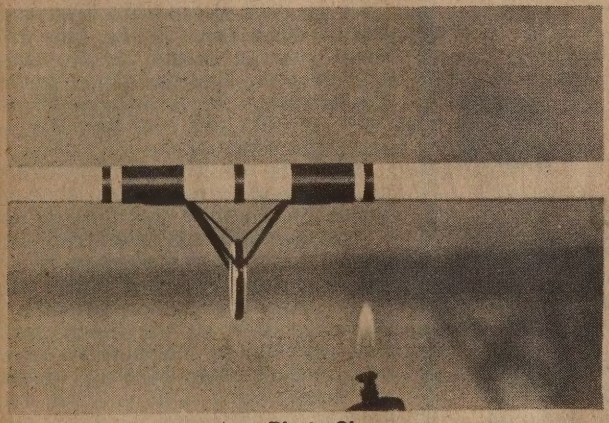

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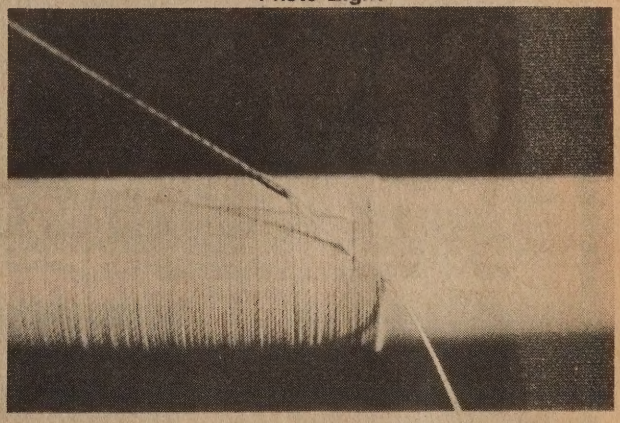

Photo Nine

which do not allow darker colors to "show through" lighter overwraps when preserver or finish is applied.

Now with your wrapping jig ready and your guides spaced and tested and the blank marked for proper guide placement—start wrapping. All guides should be underwrapped. The metal guide foot in direct contact with the Fiberglas blank as the rod flexes could result in wear and blank failure. A cushion of thread under the guide foot will prevent any chafing or scraping by the guide foot.

Here is where you can put your imagination to work in designing your rod. Rod wrapping thread comes in many colors and the combinations are almost unlimited. As a general rule, underwraps of a lighter color than the overwraps tend to make a better looking overall wrap—but the choice is up to you.

Size "D" is the most popular thread. If you are building a rod with a very small diameter blank, such as a fly rod or light spin rod, you might want to use a finer thread such as size "A"; this will give a very low profile on the wraps and look much better on a thinner rod. If you mix sizes, always use the smaller thread as the underwrap.

Photo #2 shows the blank marked for the underwrap. In this case, we are starting with the stripping guide and extending the underwrap a half-inch past the end of the guide foot. The amount of underwrap you use is up to you: just remember underwrapping will have a tendency to stiffen the blank a bit—the more underwrap, the more you stiffen the rod. As we move up the rod, we generally shorten the distance from guide foot to end of wrap by 1/16" per guide, but again, this is arbitrary; you may want to use the same distance for each guide.

There are several ways to begin a wrap and you will have to experiment to find one that is comfortable for you. To begin a wrap, you must hold the loose or tag end of thread on the blank and wrap over it. It sounds simple enough and it is once you get the hang of it. You can wrap the tag end around the blank once and form the traditional "locking X"; then begin wrapping, always going over the tag end. Or you can

(Continued on next page.)

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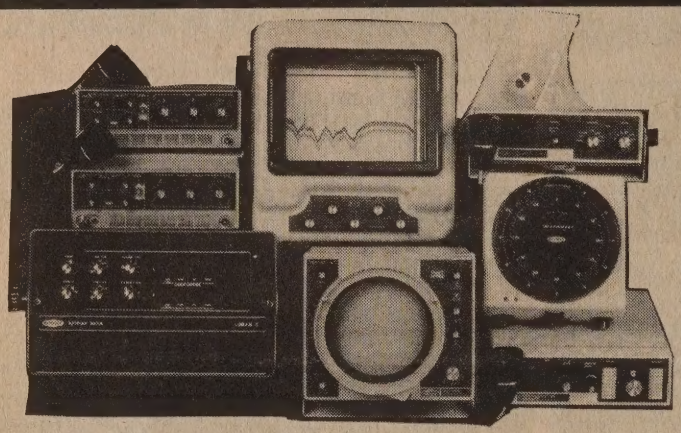

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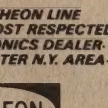

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take three or four open turns around the blank with the tag end, keeping one finger on those turns as you begin to rotate the rod. When you get 360° around the blank, cross over the first turn and keep going while still keeping pressure on the other loose turns to prevent them from slipping. Once you get three or four tight turns around the blank, the three will hold itself without slipping.

Now pick up the tag end and, as you rotate the rod, pull it away from the wrap on an angle directly opposite the thread coming from the spool. This will straighten the threads and form a perfect circle around the blank. Always wrap over the top of the blank so you can see where the thread is going and try to keep the thread coming from the spool in a direct line or lagging slightly behind the wraps already on the rod. Once you get six or eight turns on the rod, cut the rest of the tag end off and continue wrapping.

As you approach the end of the wrap, stop about an eighth of an inch short. Insert a loop of thread under the wrap (Photo #4). Make eight or ten wraps over the loop (Photo #5); cut the thread coming from the spool leaving two or three inches. Take this loose end and thread it through the loop. Pull the loop, and with it the tag end of the wrap back under the wrap itself (Photo #6). There are a number of ways to trim this tag end. Some builders use a razor blade or X-acto knife, but my hand usually manages to start shaking at the wrong time. We prefer sharp nail clippers. Pull the tag end up away from the rod so you pull up several of the wrap threads (Photo #7). Slide the nail clippers down the thread; be sure the curvature of the clippers is in line with the curvature of the blank. Clip the tag end off and as the wrap threads fall back in place, they will completely cover the end of the thread. Any gaps in the wrap can be closed by "burnishing" with a smooth metal screwdriver or hard wooden dowel rubbed gently back and forth over the wraps.

An optional touch for wraps is the addition of checks or small trim bands of contrasting color. These checks can be the same color as the overwrap or a third color completely. Photo #8 shows the underwrap marked for end and center checks of one-eighth inches. The wrapping is done the same; however, as soon as you cut off the tag end at the beginning of the wrap, immediately insert the tie-off loop. This will give you neat checks of about ten to twelve turns. You can make your checks as large or small as your taste dictates.

If you extended the underwrap one-half inch past the guide foot, now measure back one-half inch from the ends of the underwrap and mark it there with a pencil. This will center your guide and you can tape it in-between the marks and begin the overwrap. Be sure the guide is lined up with the reel seat before you begin wrapping.

Begin the overwrap so a contrasting band of underwrap shows. Again, the width of this band is up to you. Some guides have their feet ground and tapered at the factory. If not, you will have to taper the leading edge of the guide foot with a file or grinder so the thread will walk right up on the foot. You will have to slow down here and guide the thread along until you get the hang of it. Once you negotiate the thread up onto the guide foot, continue wrapping normally.

Your completed wraps should look like the one in Photo #9. The final step before you begin applying finish is to "singe" the rod with an alcohol lamp. You can use a match or candle to do this if you use the side of the flame so no carbon soils the wraps. This singeing will burn off all the minute fuzz that is created by handling the thread. You may not notice it now, but when you put the finish on, that little hair or fuzz all of a sudden becomes a mountain.

This particular style of wrap with checks is one of many. As you master the basic techniques of applying thread, you might want to experiment and copy another style you like or create your own.

Rod Holders for Small Boats

Part Four—*INSTALLATION*

by Dr. William A. Muller

The rod rack is now completed. To the best of our efforts, we have made a rod rack that will give many years of service. You can be proud of your masterpiece. We are ready to install the rack on the boat.

At the outset of the project we included, as part of our preliminary design procedures, a decision about the preferred position of the rod holder rack on the boat once it was completed. We decided to put our rack on the left (port) side of the boat towards the stern. On the John Dory, the center console is on the right (starboard) side. Therefore, to install the rack on the right side gunwale would have eliminated virtually all the free gunwale space on the right side. Furthermore, if we installed it on the center console, people moving about either in front of the console or from the bow to the stern would likely bump into the rods repeatedly. The right rear position was an ideal blend of easy access to the rods and maintaining a maximum of free walking space. It has worked out very well. We also do some clamming from the boat and a center gunwale position would have interefered with this, too.

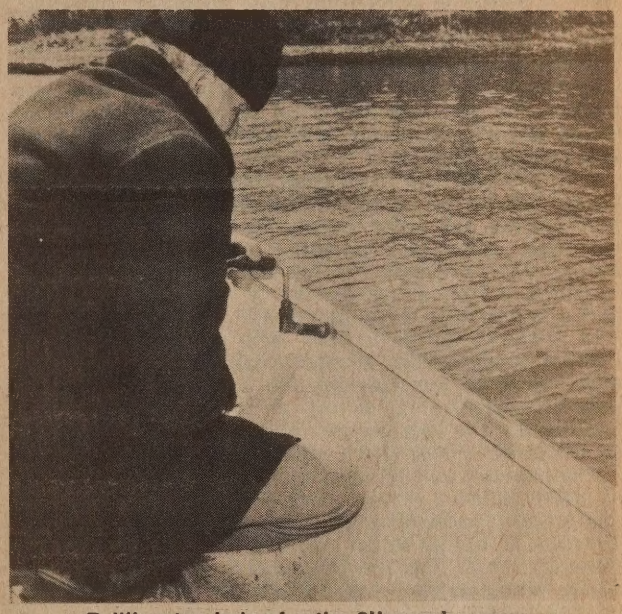
We drilled three holes in the wood base using a 7/32 drill bit; one at each end and one in the center. We drilled the holes halfway down (or up) the width of the wood. Next we held the rack up against the wood rail at the top of the gunwale and marked the hole positions on the wood rails. We could have also installed the rack on the fiberglass gunwale by bolting (stainless steel bolts) the rack to the fiberglass with an additional piece of wood between the fiberglass wall and the rack. The length and width of the wood should then be the same as the rack and the thickness should be sufficient to allow the plastic pipe sections to be clear of the wood rail.

Next we drilled tap holes in the wood rail at the three places we had previously marked. We then secured the rack to the rail using three, two-inch wood screws (#12 or #14).

We were now ready to fish! The completion of the project coincided with the beginning of the flounder season and within a week I was pounding across Peconic Bay in search of the flatfish. Good grief, that first day was like Victory at Sea, and we learned a very important lesson. We lost a rod out of the holder that first trip. We forgot that a small boat is likely to bounce around a lot more than a slightly larger craft such as a Mako, Aquasport, SeaCraft, Proline, Grady White, etc. The rod bounced out of the holder when we flew off the crest of one wave and landed on the crest of the next with a thud! Ouch, that hurt!

So, it was apparent that a minor modification was in order. I purchased six stainless steel snap clips: brass will do just as well, may be easier to find, and will probably be less expensive. We cut six, eighteen inch lengths of eighty pound test monofilament and tied one end of each piece of monofilament to each clip. Then we

(Continued on page 24.)



Drilling tap holes for the 2" wood screws.

Securing the backboard and rod holders. Sink the screws well.

LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN MAY ORGANIZE A SPORTFISHING WORLD SERIES

by Scott Simons

For many years now, the staff of The Long Island Fisherman has had the urge to organize a sport fishing World Series of sorts so that our local anglers could have a means of comparing their expertise with their fellow fishermen. It has always proved to be a mammoth project, not without its stumbling blocks. But after much thought and research as to how other contests and tournaments around the country have been run, we believe that we have finally hit upon the formula that would allow an equitable competition that didn't result in a needless fish kill.

In the past, we had hoped that the various fishing clubs would be able to handle the domain of tournaments, but unfortunately this hasn't proven to be the case. With rare exception, most of the fishing club-sponsored events are for the offshore fisherman, requiring a boat of twenty-five or more feet in length and a pocketbook to go along with it. This leaves the vast majority of fishermen—who primarily fish for inshore species from smaller boats—out in the cold. Also, most of the tournaments are held as one-day events subject to the whims of the weather and Miss Lady Luck. The tournament that we are proposing will be different in that it will encompass a wide range of inshore species as well as offshore and run over a period of six months—a normal fishing season; thus, we are not actually contemplating a tournament of the usual dimensions, but an actual World Series. Following is the basic outline of how the proposed Sport Fishing World Series would be run, and we ask our readers for their comments both pro and con on the concept of it and the actual rules and regulations of same.

The World Series will consist of nine innings that will be fished over a six month period. Seven of the innings will be for a specific species, one will be for offshore species, and one inning will be a Rodeo whose purpose is to show the versatility of the fishermen in catching various species on the same day. The nine innings and the tentative dates on which they will be held are:

Inning #1: CODFISH—April 14
Inning #2: FLOUNDER—May 5
Inning #3: WEAKFISH—May 26
Inning #4: STRIPED BASS—June 16
Inning #5: FLUKE—July 7
Inning #6: BLUEFISH—July 28
Inning #7: OFFSHORE—August 18
Inning #8: RODEO ROUNDUP—September 15
Inning #9: BLACKFISH—October 6

Each inning will be three weeks apart and held on a Saturday. Boats will leave any of the official starting points simultaneously at 6AM and return to the same starting point no later than 4PM. In the event of an inning being cancelled due to inclement weather, the inning will automatically be rescheduled for the next following Saturday.

The entry fee to participate in the World Series is $100, which is a team of four anglers. The team may consist of less than four, but the anglers fishing on a team must always be the same. The four-man teams may fish from any type of boat: private, open boat, charter boat, or from surf, pier, or jetty. They do not have to fish from the same boat each inning, but they must all fish from the same boat or place for each individual inning. If a four-man team is going to be the Official Representative of a fishing club or organization, the entry fee will be $200 rather than the $100. Each team can fish all nine innings, but doesn't necessarily have to, because only the seven highest point score innings for each team will count for tabulating the winners of the World Series. So you can have two hard luck "bad" days or boat breakdowns without being penalized in the standings.

In the past, one of our main objections to tournaments and fishing contests was that many of them end up becoming fish kills. This is particularly true in shark contests, where piles of sharks have been left to rot after being weighed in. To prevent this from happening, all fish caught by anyone participating in the World Series becomes the property of the charity designated before the tournament begins. The charity will then sell the fish and retain the proceeds for their cause.

The fishing rules and regulations for the World Series will be the same as those in effect at the time by the International Game Fish Association (I.G.F.A.). In other words, all fish must be taken in a manner that would make them eligible to be recognized as I.G.F.A. World Records if they were large enough. The only exception to this will be the use of wire line, which may be used ONLY for the purpose of trolling a **single** tube, lure or plug. In other words, lures such as umbrella rigs, trees, circus rigs, commanche rigs, etc., that have more than one armed lure cannot be used under any circumstances, nor are they even permitted on the boat being fished from. Discovery of such will mean elimination in the Series.

We feel that we have devised an equitable scoring system to give each inning a relatively even value. This is necessary due to the different sizes and abundance of the various species for each inning. Scoring for each individual inning will consist of a totaling of the points earned by each team in three categories: **1. Overall Weight Point; 2. Bonus Weight Points;** and **3. Placing Points.** Each species will receive an established number of points for each pound of fish caught by a Fishing Team. The total number of pounds of the species will be multiplied by this number to establish the **Overall Weight Points.** The **Bonus Points** will be given for each fish of the species that exceeds an established weight size. The **Bonus Points** are always DOUBLE the point value of the fish per pound. **Example:** A ten-pound weakfish has a one-point-per-pound value. Bonus points are given for each **full pound** over the first eight. This fish would receive four **Bonus Points** because there are two pounds receiving two bonus points each. The fish still receives the normal ten points for its full weight, so this weakfish would earn a total of fourteen points.

The Scoring Points and Bonus Points for each species are:

Blackfish—2 pts. per lb; Bonus pts. +4 ea. lb. over 5.

Striped Bass—1 pt. per lb; Bonus pts. +2 ea. lb. over 30
Bluefish—½ pt. per lb; Bonus pts. +1 ea. lb. over 12
Fluke—2 pts. per lb; Bonus pts. +4 ea. lb. over 5
Codfish—1 pt. per lb; Bonus pts. +2 ea. lb. over 30
Weakfish—1 pt. per lb; Bonus pts. +2 ea. lb. over 8
Flounder—4 pts. per lb; Bonus pts. +8 ea. lb. over 2

The winners for each individual inning will be determined by adding the **Overall Weight Points** with the **Bonus Points. Placing Points** will then be given as follows:

FIRST PLACE..... ***100 Extra Points***
SECOND PLACE..... ***50 Extra Points***
THIRD PLACE..... ***25 Extra Points***

The winning four-man teams will be determined by adding together the total points that they have accumulated in their seven best innings.

The Rodeo Roundup inning and the Offshore inning will be scored differently from the other seven innings because more than one species is involved. We haven't worked out the final scoring system as yet, and maybe some of our readers can hit us with a few ideas. The concept of the Rodeo Roundup inning is to measure the versatility of each fishing team by having them catch as many **different** species as they can in a single day. For the offshore inning, it seems that the only way to determine a winner will be to have a panel of judges to determine the best catches. Or it could be a simple shark tournament with the three largest sharks earning points for their team. But some rules would have to be imposed to prevent a needless fish kill—say each boat could only bring in one shark for weighing in. Give us some ideas!

In both the Rodeo and Offshore innings, only the three winning teams will receive any points for th overall contest. The scoring would be:

FIRST PLACE TEAM..... ***400 Points***
SECOND PLACE TEAM..... ***200 Points***
THIRD PLACE TEAM..... ***100 Points***

We plan on setting up a minimum of ten weighing stations spread out geographically around Long Island. Each boat with its four-man team must leave and return to one of these stations, but can choose which one they will sail from. The only limitation is that during the World Series each team must fish out of at least three different weighing stations, so that we can measure your versatility in fishing different areas. If a team returns to the weighing station after the deadline, they will not score any points for the inning being fished that day.

Assuming participation in the World Series of 150 four-man teams, with an entry fee of $100, the prize money (tentatively) would be:

OVERALL WINNING TEAMS:

GRAND PRIZE..... **$10,000**
SECOND PLACE..... **$2,500**
THIRD PLACE..... **$1,000**
FOURTH PLACE..... **$ 500**
SPECIAL AWARD..... **$1,000**
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY..... **$15,000**

The Special Award will be presented to the four-man fishing team that raises the most money for the charity chosen from the sale of the fish they have caught during the World Series. Overall, we estimate that the tournament will raise between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars for the charity from the sale of the catch. If more than 150 teams participate, the additional entry money will also be donated to the charity—excluding expenses incurred in running the contest.

We are also trying to make arrangements to award prizes to the teams winning the individual innings. The prizes would be in the form of fishing tackle gift certificates for the following amounts, if our plans materialize:

INNING WINNING TEAMS:

FIRST PLACE..... ***$500 of Tackle***
SECOND PLACE..... ***$250 of Tackle***
THIRD PLACE..... ***$100 of Tackle***
LARGEST FISH..... ***$100 of Tackle***

TOTAL PER INNING..... ***$950 of Tackle***
Total Amount of Tackle for 9 Innings..... ***$8,550***

That means that there would be a total of forty-one separate prizes, so every fishing team has an excellent chance of winning something. And because of the thousands of dollars that it is expected to raise for charity, we don't think that the World Series could ever be accused of being just another of the endless fish kill type tournaments. But we would like to hear from you readers out there and get your opinions on everything we have discussed. We'd also like to hear from fishing stations, bait and tackle shops, marinas, etc., interested in becoming official weighing stations. Just in case it becomes necessary to limit the number of four-man teams that participate, and in order to get a feel on how many of you would like to participate in the proposed World Series, please fill out the application blank, but send no money. If it becomes necessary to limit entries, those sending in this preliminary application blank will receive first preference.

Preliminary Application Blank

To Participate in The Long Island Fisherman's SPORTFISHING WORLD SERIES

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Names of Four Man Fishing Team:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Send completed application blank to: ***The L.I. Fisherman*** **• P.O. Box 1994 • Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963**

HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE

BOAT PUMP

In this corner:

Bob Hunt

Here's a twelve volt pump that you can use as a pump for a bait well, a wash-down pump, or as an emergency water pump for your I/O. It can be portable or permanently mounted, depending on its use.

To use it as a bait well pump, just hang the intake end over the side and put the exhaust hose in the bait well. The pump should fill the bait well from the bottom. A hose on the top of the bait well will act as the overflow.

A wash-down pump is similar to the bait pump except the exhaust hose becomes the washing down end. You can connect the intake hose permanently to your boat by using a through-hull fitting. The pump works best when the intake hose is short and the pump is at the same height or lower than the intake hose.

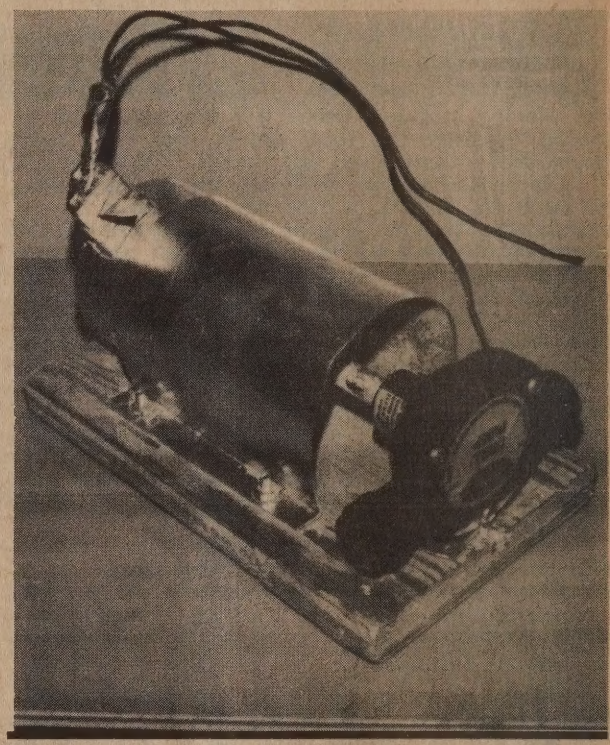
To use the pump as an emergency water pump, when your outdrive water pump quits, just connect the exhaust hose to the water intake on the engine block. This is usually up near the water pump. Most I/Os have a 5/8'' hose bringing water from the outdrive water pump to the block. Check your engine manual. Where this hose connects to the block is where you connect the boat pump's exhaust when your I/O pump quits. You can run the engine slowly at low rpm's, but at least you'll get home.

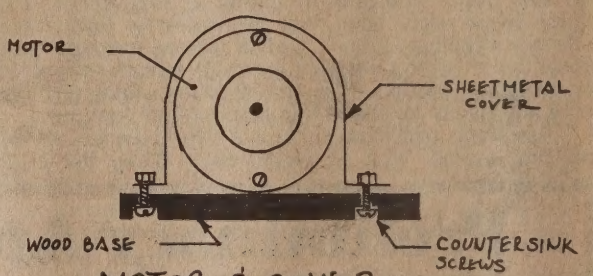
The pump is made from an automotive twelve volt heater fan motor. These are about $10 in a junk yard. Most motors have three wires: one is low speed, one is high speed, and the other is ground. Use test leads and a battery to test out which is which. You want the high speed and the ground leads. For portable uses, connect the high speed lead to the battery positive (+) and the ground to the negative. Use long wires of eighteen gauge stranded wire with clamp connectors.

The pump is secured to a board by using a sheet metal cover. Assemble the pump, connecting link and motor on a board cut to size. Then fold over a sheet metal cover cut from an aluminum beer can. Make the cover shorter than you need and the bolts will tighten and ''tie'' the motor down. (see diagram.)

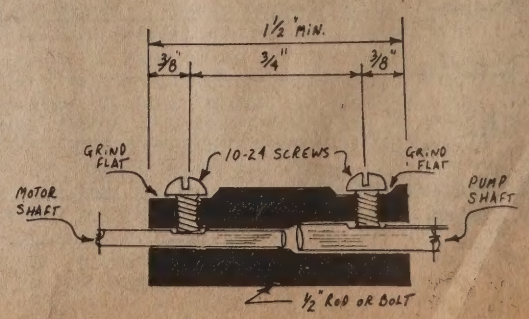
The motor and pump are joined together by a connecting link, or coupling (see diagram). To make the link, follow these steps:

1. Grind or file a flat spot on each shaft (motor and pump).
2. Cut a 1½'' piece from a ½'' rod or a ½'' bolt.
3. Locate center of the rod; accuracy is not critical.
4. Determine the sizes of the pump shaft and the motor shaft. This can be done with a ruler, caliper, micrometer, or by poking the shaft into the holes in a drill index (set of drills) and finding the hole that gives a snug fit. Use the drill that belongs in this hole for drilling the shaft hole.
5. Drill lengthwise through the center with the smaller diameter drill (if both shafts are of different diameters).
6. Drill 3/4'', halfway in, with the larger diameter drill for the other shaft.
7. Grind or file a flat on the surface of the rod.
8. Center punch a mark 3/8'' from each end on the flat.
9. Drill a 5/32 tap hole (#25 drill, .1495) to connect with the shaft holes.
10. Tap this hole with a 10-24 tap.
11. Use 1/2'' long 10-24 brass screws.
12. Insert pump shafts into connecting link.
13. Tighten screws so they contact flat spot on each shaft.





MOTOR & COVER



SHAFT CONNECTING LINK

LIFE IN A WINTER POND

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE APPEARANCE OF A FROZEN POND IN THE DEAD OF WINTER IS DECEIVING. IT IS JUST AS ALIVE IN JANUARY AS IT WAS IN JUNE WHEN YOU CAUGHT THOSE BASS, PERCH AND BULLHEADS. THE DIFFERENCE IS TEMPERATURE AND THE VARIOUS WAYS EACH SPECIES ADOPTS TO THE FRIGID WORLD.

"TURNOVER" OF HEAVY, LIGHT AND WARM WATER LEVELS CONTINUES UNTIL ALL DEPTHS REACH 39°F.

WATER HOLDS TWICE AS MUCH OXYGEN AT 32°F. AS AT 77°F., AN OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE TO ITS WINTER RESIDENTS UNDER ICE.

PREDATORS SUCH AS BASS, PICKEREL, TROUT AND PERCH REMAIN ACTIVE FEEDING ON DORMANT FISH AND EACHOTHER.

SUNFISH AND BLUEGILLS BECOME LESS ACTIVE IN WINTER, CONSUMING LESS FOOD BUT WILL TAKE MEAL WORMS DANGLED ON A HOOK.

CARP AND BULLHEADS WIGGLE INTO THE BOTTOM MUCK AND REMAIN SLUGGISH AND DORMANT.

AQUATIC INSECTS SURVIVE AS NYMPTHS IN THE BOTTOM MUD OR CLING TO AQUATIC PLANTS & DEBRIS.

FROGS HIBERNATE IN MUD OR UNDER ROCKS, LEAVES ETC. AS OSMOSIS TAKES OVER AND THEY TAKE OXYGEN SLOWLY THROUGH THEIR SKIN...

TURTLES SINK INTO THE MUD AND STORE AIR IN THEIR LUNGS AND OBTAIN OXYGEN UNDER WATER THROUGH THEIR BODIES.

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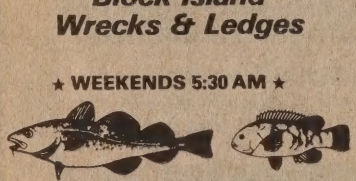

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MONTAUK

The Viking Star reports that their 6AM daily trips to Block Island Grounds have improved on cod and the numbers are now averaging 4-6 cod per man, fish in the 10-15 lb. range with some 30 lbers. being decked also.

Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** called to tell us that the fire they had in the store several weeks ago did not damage to customers' engine stored in the basement and that structural repairs to the store are under way. They expect to reopen for the season on schedule on April 1, 1979.

Captain Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devil Fish** dropped by to say that he will be starting the new fishing earlier this year to get in on the excellent spring codfishing that Montauk has been having the last few years. Hopefully the large schools of giant cod and pollack will move inshore again this spring, starting the year off with a bang. If you want to book your charter early,

ROD HOLDERS

(Continued from page 19.)

drilled a very small hole about midway down the PVC pipe section. We inserted the unattached end of each length of monofilament into the hole and tied several overhand knots making a large bolus at the end of the monofilament. We melted the free end of the monofilament and compressed it with a pair of pliers so that the knot bolus would not work free.

Thus, when the rods were in the holders we could secure them by clipping the safety leader onto the bail arm of the reel, the handle of the reel, or the stem of the reel.

With this additional peace of mind, we were ready for our second trip. The weather was a lot more friendly on the day of the second voyage and we set out to catch those first delicious fillets.

It was a pleasure to have all those rods off the floor of the boat. I don't know how you feel about it, but to me there's nothing more frustrating than the tangle of line, reels, sinkers and hooks that is the inevitable result of even the shortest and smoothest ride to the fishing grounds. When we arrived on station this day, each rod and reel was ready to go into action. We had only to bait up and fish.

We didn't make a major dent in the stocks of Peconic Bay flounder that day, but we took enough for a couple of meals. In fact, the first fish hit mussel bait before I had finished baiting up the second rig.

FISH TALK
(Continued from page 9.)

remember what we have lost and we wish that we could have it back. Thus, today's saltwater fisherman is ready to fight to protect what is left of marine resources. Because of this new attitude, the 200-Mile Limit law was passed and more and more interest in the conservation and preservation of Long Island's uniqueness is awakening.

HOW CAN WE HELP? We often receive letters from concerned readers who wish to become involved in positive action to save Long Island marine fishes and/or our marine habitats. We would like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the groups where your voice will have impact. Let's begin with the New York Sportfishing Council. The Council is now two-years-old and has just gone through a reorganization of officers and format designed to make the organization more effective. It takes man-hours and money for a group like this to work, and the New York Sportfishing Council can use both. I was the Organization's first President and because of that involvement, I got to know the people very well. I can tell you that these are people that care. They have not become involved to get something for themselves, but rather to make positive progress towards preserving Long Island's marine environment. The American Littoral Society is a New Jersey-based environmental organization that has been active for many years. For more information, write to the American Littoral Society, Highlands, Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The American Littoral Society has a fish-tagging program, education program, trouble-shooting coast watch program, are vigorously pursuing the preservation of wetlands, and have many influential contacts that provide financial support, as well as information and advice. This is only a brief summary of the Society's activities. The Marine Environmental Council of Long Island is another very aggressive organization that merits your support. Keep an eye out in the "Pass It On" section of the Long Island Fisherman for information about their activities and for an address where you can get more information. Save Our Stripers is a local group that has been fighting to conserve the striped bass for a number of years. Again, read the "Pass It On" section for news about this organization. All of these organizations, and we are sure that there are additional worthy groups, merit your time and financial support. Most important: be active! Take the time to write a letter to a lawmaker or official. Make them know that we're out here and that we are watching what they are doing. Let's keep them honest, and keep Long Island our playground!

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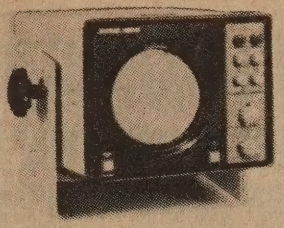

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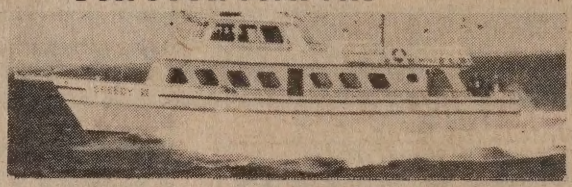

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give Warren a call at 668-3343.

Captain John DeMaio called to tell us that he will be announcing the winner of the contest he ran for who can guess the total weight of the bluefish caught on the charter boat **Vivienne** last year next week, because some late postmarks were still coming in. At the time he called, the closest guess was only 166 lbs. off the mark. John also said that he still has a few openings in his fishing school. Give him a call at 668-5130 for further information.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reports that on Saturday five anglers had over 30 cod from 4-50 lbs., all on hook and line, clam on the hook. This was due south of Jones.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** happily reports Satur-

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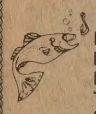

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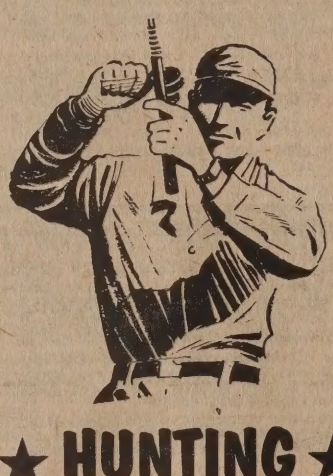

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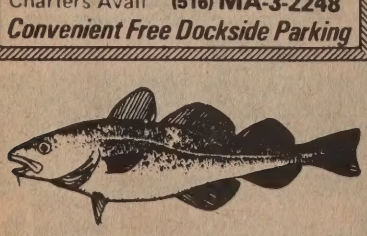

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day's catch of 26 cod from 12-40 lbs. with the 40 lber. taking the pool. Speedy was fishing roughly 21 miles southwest of Fl Inlet. All fish were caught on clam baits with the boat anchored up and chumming with skimmers. On Wednesday, the boat had close to 20 cod. Speedy says this is a new run of green fish.

Captain Bob Patafio of the charter boat **Yankee** tells us that Saturday's charter for the Henderson Construction Co. bagged 14 cod from 15-35 lbs., the majority of the fish being in the 20-35 lb. range. The 35 lb. pool winner was caught by Joe Pankowski, Jr. of East Meadow. The boat was fishing 18-20 miles southwest of Fl Inlet and all fish were taken on clam. Bob says these are new green fish and it is obvious that a new run of baccala has come into the area. All fish were taken at anchor. He also asked us to tell you the Yankee will be available for cod charters through February.

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **StarStream II** reports Saturday's catch of 12 cod from 12 to 40 lbs. on clam for 20 fares fishing 15-17 miles south/southeast of Jones Inlet, working the gullies and sloughs. Richie says its cod or bust, he's not going for any other groundfish. Two other days during the week, six men had 7 cod and on the other day, 11 fares had an even dozen cod fishing the same general area. These fish were in the above-mentioned size range and all on clam.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** called to say that he had the Amity Harbor Fishing Club out Saturday and cod up to 44 lbs. were taken. The pool was won by Charlie Kruminocker of Oceanside with a 40 lb. codfish. Capt. Sy also told us that he is having a brand new 60 ft. charter boat built which will be the twin to the Blue Fin II. It will replace the present Blue Fin and will bear its name. The brand new fiberglass over wood charter boat will arrive sometime in early summer of '79.

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Captain Joe Miller of the **Atomic II** tells of really good whiting and ling fishing with fares filling up anywheres from 1-2 five gallon buckets. The whiting are runnin up to 3 lbs. The action is 25 minutes from the dock at Ambrose Tower and catches are pretty evenly divided between whiting and ling.

Captain Tom of the **Elsie K II** also tells of super duper whiting fishing on Saturday just north of Ambrose, with whiting up to 3 lbs. on herring and whiting strips.

Captain Fred on the **Amberjack V** reports steady catches and lots of smiling faces with good whiting and ling catches for all fares Saturday in the area of Ambrose Tower.

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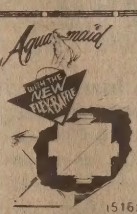

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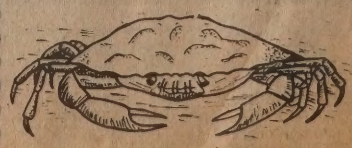

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